

SARAH BLACKWELL.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 398.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. BRABSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Sarah Blackwell, of the State of Missouri, report :*

That they have had the same under consideration, and from the proofs introduced, it appears that the said Sarah Blackwell is the widow of James M. Blackwell, who volunteered at Fort Smith, about the 15th or 16th day of July, 1846, for twelve months in the Mexican war, under Captain Felch, and her affidavit sets forth that he remained in the service until the last day of January, 1847, when he died of disease contracted in the service and while in the line of his duty. The Commissioner of Pensions states, in a letter to the Hon. J. S. Phelps, that the battalion to which James M. Blackwell belonged was employed in defence of the frontiers of Arkansas, but never started to the seat of the war. The petitioner is in very feeble health, about forty-four years of age, was a widow at the time of this application ; that she has three children, aged about 19, 16, and 14 years. The Commissioner of Pensions rejected her claim for a pension, on the ground that her husband having been kept at Fort Smith for the purpose of protecting the frontiers of Arkansas, and not having marched to Mexico, the seat of the war, she was not entitled under any existing law. Your committee cannot believe that such a discrimination is just. It was clearly no fault of the husband of the petitioner that he did not march to Mexico. They are unanimously of the opinion that a pension should be granted to the widow, and for that purpose they report a bill.

